

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1729

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV PDIP
SUBJ: VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN REMARKS ON NORMALIZATION AND
OTHER SUBJECTS

1. ASPEN INSTITUTE DELEGATION MET WITH VICE PREMIER
LI HSIEN-NIEN FOR TWO HOURS ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 7.
ONE OF DELEGATION MEMBERS BRIEFED USLO OFFICERS ON A
PERSONAL BASIS ON THIS MEETING; HE DID NOT HAVE
AUTHORIZATION FROM DELEGATION LEADER TO DO SO. THEREFORE
REQUEST ADDRESSEES HOLD INFORMATION CLOSELY. DURING THE
MEETING LI STATED THAT PRC WAS PREPARED TO SEEK AMERICAN
COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING CHINESE OFFSHORE PETROLEUM
RESOURCES; THESE REMARKS REPORTED SEPTEL.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF US BILATERAL RELATIONS, LI
STATED THAT "IF YOU NORMALIZE RELATIONS, A LOT IS POSSIBLE.
IF WE HAVE NORMALIZATION, PERHAPS WE CAN PUT OFF THE
THREAT FROM THE POLAR GEAR." ONE OF THE DELEGATION
MEMBERS SAID THAT THERE WAS A LOT THAT COULD BE DONE
BEFORE NORMALIZATION. LI STATED THAT "EVEN THOUGH THERE
IS NO NORMALIZATION WE CAN STILL DEVELOP RELATIONS
BECAUSE WE SHARE A COMMON GOAL -- ESPECIALLY TO COPE WITH
SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO A DELEGATION PROPOSAL TO INVITE CHINESE
TO ASPEN FOR A CONFERENCE ON THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, LI
SAID "THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IS A GOOD DOCUMENT, UNIQUE
IN THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. EACH SIDE
STATED ITS VIEWS, DISAGREEING ON A FEW POINTS WITH THE
OTHER SIDE. THOUGH DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS WERE

INCLUDED, MORE IMPORTANT ARE THE SHARED VIEWS; FOR EXAMPLE, THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN BEING A PART OF CHINA. THIS WAS AGREED TO BY PRESIDENT NIXON. IT WAS SIGNIFICANT IN STARTING CULTURAL EXCHANGES, VISITS, TRADE, AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES. SO, THERE IS A LOT TO DISCUSS ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT."

4. WHEN THE DELEGATION ASKED WHETHER VICE PREMIER WOULD VISIT THE US, LI STATED THAT HE COULD NOT COME UNTIL THE EMBASSY OF THE "CHIANG CLIQUE" IS REMOVED. THE (CHINESE) PEOPLE WOULD "SPANK" ME FOR CREATING TWO CHINAS AND BETRAYING THE NATIONAL TRUST. I COULD BE EXPELLED FROM THE PARTY AND HAVE MY CITIZENSHIP TAKEN AWAY.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A DELEGATION MEMBER'S COMMENT ABOUT THE EXCELLENT STATE OF CHINESE AGRICULTURE, LI TOOK EXCEPTION, SAYING "THE CHINESE PEOPLE STILL DO NOT EAT WELL, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO STARVATION. WE HAVE CURBED DISEASES. (AGRICULTUREAL) PROGRESS IS GOOD COMPARED TO THE KMT PERIOD, BUT WE ARE FAR BEHIND THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN AGRICULTURE. WE ARE EVEN BEHIND THE SOCIAL IMPERIALISTS.

6. ONE OF THE DELEGATION MEMBERS SAID THAT THERE IS A LOT WE CAN DO IN THE AREA OF BILATERAL TRADE. LI SAID "YES, BUT YOU HAVE COCOM; WE WANT TO TRADE BUT COCOM RESTRAINS TRADE."
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7. COMMENTING ON PRC STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF US POLICIES, VICE PREMIER SAID "WE SOMETIME CRITICIZE YOU BUT THESE ARE JUST EMPTY CANNONS."

8. SOURCE INDICATED ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING WAS VERY RELAXED. VICE PREMIER ANSWERED WITHOUT HESITATION ALL QUESTIONS ON POLICY MATTERS. HE WAS DESCRIBED AS "IN CONTROL, EMOTIVE, SELF-DEPRECATING, AND CHARMING."

9. IN ADDITION TO LI HSIEN-NIEN MEETING, ASPEN DELEGATION MET WITH CPIFA PRESIDENT HAO TE-CHING, AND WITH BANK OF CHINA, INSTITUTE OF LEGAL SCIENCES, AND ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICIALS. AT THE LATTER MEETING, DELEGATION MEMBERS WERE REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT ACADEMY WANTS TO SEND STUDENTS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES TO STUDY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES SUCH AS HARVARD AND MIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

10. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH VICE PREMIER'S REMARKS LARGELY RESTATE FAMILIAR PRC POSITIONS, WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE FORTHRIGHTNESS OF HIS PRESENTATION. THE ANTI-SOVIET TENOR PERVAING VICE PREMIER'S STATEMENTS CONVEYED TO

THE ASPEN GROUP A SENSE OF URGENCY IN CHINESE PERCEPTIONS OF
THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE US.
WOODCOCK

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